



Drug Courts

FUNDING

Since FY 2001, the State Legislature has appropriated \$1.6 million annually, from the Tobacco Settlement Account, to fund drug courts and drug boards. Growth in the number of drug courts has led to a need for additional funds for Drug Courts and Drug Boards.

- Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH) currently provides funding for 19 of 32 drug court programs.
- In 1996, two (2) Drug Courts existed, by 2007 thirty-two (32) drugs courts are operating in Utah.

Utah Law (U.C.A. §78-3-32) requires that funds disbursed to a drug court program shall be allocated as follows:

- 87% to the Department of Human Services for testing, treatment, and case management
- 13% to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) for increased judicial and court support costs

DRUG COURTS

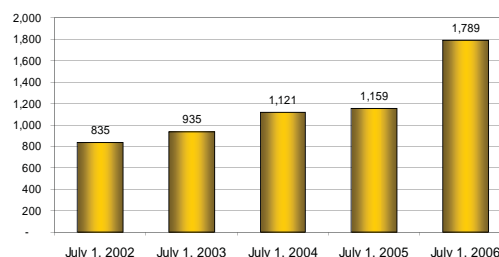
The Department of Human Services (DHS) provides funding for 19 Drug Court Programs. Drug Courts offer nonviolent, drug-abusing offenders with the option of receiving intensive court supervised drug treatment as an alternative to jail or prison. Participants undergo long-term, judicially monitored treatment and counseling. Individuals appear before a Judge every week.

The Drug Court Judge has the authority to impose sanctions and incentives. Successful completion of the treatment program results in dismissal of criminal charges, reduced or set aside sentences, or reduced probation time. Drug Courts reinforce positive behaviors (e.g. treatment attendance and drug free urine samples) and punish (e.g. jail) negative behaviors (e.g. continued drug use). In Utah, Drug Court participants are involved in treatment an average of 339 days.

ARE DRUG COURTS EFFECTIVE?

Drug Courts are the most successful model for treating chronic, substance-abusing offenders. “To put it bluntly, we know that drug courts outperform virtually all other strategies that have been attempted for drug-involved offenders.” (Marlowe, DeMatteo, & Festinger, 2003) Utah Drug Courts have been the subject of at least eight independent evaluations. All of the independent reports showed positive outcomes. Sixty-seven percent (67%) of participants complete Drug Court successfully. Not only do Drug Courts reduce drug use and crime, but also costs. The estimated costs to incarcerate a drug offender for a year is \$20,000 to \$30,000. The costs to provide a comprehensive drug court system for a drug offender, is only \$2,500 to \$4,400 annually.

State Totals - Drug Courts
Participants Receiving Services as of:



Quick Facts:

Participation is Growing

- 32 drug courts are now operating in Utah
- Over 6,300 Utahns have participated or are currently participating in a drug court
- Over 3,800 Utahns have graduated from a drug court
- 67% of drug court participants graduate
- Next year 2,000 Utahns will participate in drug court

Decreases Substance Use

- 69% of all participants report abstinence at discharge, an additional 9% report reduced use at discharge

Increases Employment Rate

- Statewide between admission and discharge, employment rates for Adult Drug Court participants rose by 7%

Reduces Recidivism

- 6 months prior to involvement, participants report an average of 2.7 arrests
- 84% of participants report zero arrests while in Drug Court